

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T STATE 050396

FOL SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC MARCH 18, 1973 FROM KUWAIT

REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

S E C R E T KUWAIT 0842

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR KU

SUBJECT: AMIR OF KUWAIT INTERVIEW

REFS: STATE 47450, KUWAIT 808

SUMMARY: FONMIN MADE CLEAR STATEMENTS RE UNLIMITED
SUPPORT FOR FEDAYEEN IN AMIR' S INTERVIEW IN AL- BAYRAQ WERE
NOT RPT NOT GOK POLICY, WHICH IS SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIANS
TRYING TO REGAIN THEIR RIGHTS IN PALESTINE. GOK POLICY SET
OUT PUBLICLY IN FOMIN' S SPEECH TO UN OCT 7, 1972, AND
WOULD BE RESTATED IN OTHER APPROPRIATE OCCASIONS IN
FUTURE. FONMIN ALSO INDICATED AMIR' S STATEMENTS RE STOPPING
OIL FLOW TO WEST DID NOT RPT NOT REPRESENT GOK POLICY. END
SUMMARY.

1. FONMIN SABAH RECEIVED ME MAR 17, APOLOGIZING SEVERAL
TIMES HE HAD BEEN UNABLE DO SO TWO DAYS EARLIER. SAID HE
HAD BEEN BRIEFED FULLY BY UNDERSEC RASHID RE STRONGLY ADVERSE
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USG REACTION TO AMIR'S INTERVIEW. SABAH SAID GOK POLICY WAS CLEAR: SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIANS TRYING TO REGAIN THEIR RIGHTS IN PALESTINE. SUCH SUPPORT WAS NON- MILITARY AND WENT FOR MEETING NEEDS OF PALESTINIANS INCLUDING FAMILIES OF THOSE KILLED AND IMPRISONED BY ISRAELIS. GOK OPPOSED AND DEPLORED ANY ATTACK BY THOSE CALLING THEMSELVES FEDAYEEN ON OTHER THAN ISRAELI TARGETS. I SAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE WAS UNDERSTANDABLE BUT IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR DONOR OF FUNDS TO FEDAYEEN TO ENSURE THAT THEY ALWAYS ENDED UP IN INTENDED HANDS. THIS PARTICULARLY TRUE IN VIEW OF NEW INFO WE HAD ON ACTIVITIES OF FATAH. SABAH SAID THAT HE ALWAYS WOULD WELCOME ANY INFO WE THOUGHT IMPORTANT TO PASS TO GOK ON FEDAYEEN.

2. FONMIN WENT ON TO MENTION AMIR'S STATEMENT RE CUTTING OFF OIL, EXPLAINING THAT GOK OF COURSE SAW NO POINT WHATEVER IN STOPPING FLOW OF OIL SINCE ONLY REAL SUFFERERS WOULD BE ARABS THEMSELVES. IF MAJORITY OF ARABS INSISTED ON STOPPAGE OF OIL, KUWAITIS ABLE TO LIVE WITHOUT IT AS WELL AS OTHER ARABS. FONMIN SO MUCH AS SAID STATEMENT AS REPORTED IN ARTICLE RE OIL WAS EYEWASH.

3. I REPLIED MY INSTRUCTIONS DID NOT COVER OIL PORTION OF INTERVIEW. ONLY POINT I WAS TO MAKE CONCERNED IMPLICATION OF UNLIMITED KUWAITI SUPPORT OF FEDAYEEN OF WHATEVER TYPE, INCLUDING MURDERERS AT KHARTOUM. I SAID I UNDERSTOOD FONMIN'S RE-STATEMENT OF POLICY WHICH I WOULD CONVEY TO WASHINGTON, AND ASKED IF IT WOULD BE MADE PUBLIC. FONMIN REPLIED GOK POLICY REGARDING SUPPORT FOR FEDAYEEN ALREADY PUBLIC AND CONTAINED IN HIS SPEECH BEFORE UN ON OCT 7 LAST. HE SAID HE WOULD SEND ME COPY. THERE WOULD DOUBTLESS BE OTHER APPROPRIATE OCCASIONS TO MAKE OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON SUBJECT. SABAH ADDED NEWSPAPERMEN HAD WAY OF ASKING QUESTIONS THAT EVOKED ANSWERS THEY WANTED. THIS TECHNIQUE NOT UNKNOWN IN WEST.

4. IN ENSUING TALK COVERING FAMILIAR GROUND ON CURRENT MIDEAST SITUATION, SABAH SAID HE CONTINUED HAVE BIG QUESTION MARK IN HIS MIND OVER REASON FOR OPERATION SUCH AS KHARTOUM. IT WAS LATEST EXAMPLE OF PHENOMENON REPEATED OVER AND OVER IN RECENT YEARS WHERE SOME ACTION BY ARABS CLOSELY FOLLOWED OUTRAGE BY ISRAEL, THUS ELIMINATING ALL GAIN IN WORLD OPINION FOR ARAB SIDE. INFOLLOWING US MEDIA PRIOR TO KHARTOUM EPISODE, HE HAD SEEN UNPRECEDENTED CRITICISM OF ISRAELIS FOR LIBYAN PLANE INCIDENT.

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TO SEE SUCH GAIN FOR ARABS COMPLETELY WIPED OUT IN ONE BLOW

WAS SO BEWILDERING AS TO MAKE ONE ASK WHY -- AND TO FIND NO
ANSWER I SAID SEEMED CLEAR THERE WERE WARPED MINDS WHO
SAW NO FUTURE FOR THEMSELVES IN ANY MID EAST SETTLEMENT AND
THEREFORE WERE OUT TO DESTROY ANY MOVEMENT TOWARD ACCOMMODATION
BETWEEN TWO SIDES BY EVERY MEANS AT THEIR DISPOSAL. SABAH REPLIED
HE NOT AT ALL SATISFIED THIS WAS WHOLE ANSWER. STOLTZFUS
UNQUOTE ROGERS

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